Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a sustained-release **microsphere** ~~composition~~, which comprises mixing an aqueous solution containing a compound represented by the general formula:
5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Y-Leu-Arg-Pro-Z (SEQ ID NO: 1)
wherein Y represents DLeu, DAla, DTrp, DSer (tBu), D2Nal or DHis (ImBzl) and Z represents $NH\text{-}C_2H_5$ or $Gly\text{-}NH_2$ and acetic acid in a molar amount of about 1.5 to about 5 times that of the compound with a solution of a lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer in a low water-soluble organic solvent to obtain a W/O type emulsion, and then drying the emulsion **to obtain microspheres**.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution is obtained using a salt of the compound with acetic acid.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the compound in the sustained-release **microsphere** ~~composition~~ is about 0.001 to about 50% by weight.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for stabilizing a W/O type emulsion of an aqueous solution containing a compound represented by the general formula:

5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Y-Leu-Arg-Pro-Z (SEQ ID NO: 1)

wherein Y represents DLeu, DAla, DTrp, DSer (tBu), D2Nal or DHis (ImBzl) and Z represents $NH\text{-}C_2H_5$ or $Gly\text{-}NH_2$ and a solution of a lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer in a low water-soluble organic solvent, which comprises adding to the aqueous solution acetic acid in a molar amount of about 1.5 to about 5 times that of the compound.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for allowing a W/O type emulsion of an aqueous solution containing a compound represented by the general formula:

5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Y-Leu-Arg-Pro-Z (SEQ ID NO: 1)

wherein Y represents DLeu, DAla, DTrp, DSer (tBu), D2Nal or DHis (ImBz1) and Z represents NH-C_2H_5 or Gly-NH_2 and a solution of a lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer in a low water-soluble organic solvent to have a viscosity of about 3,000 cp or less, which comprises adding to the aqueous solution acetic acid in a molar amount of about 1.5 to about 5-times that of the compound.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 5, wherein said acetic acid is used in a molar amount of about 1.65 to about 3 times that of the compound.

11-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid in the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is 100:0 to 50:50.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid in the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is 100:0.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is 5,000 to 50,000.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is 17,000 to 30,000.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is a lactic acid polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 15,000 to 50,000 and the content of a polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 5,000 or less in said lactic acid polymer is 5% by weight or less.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer has about 20 to about 1,000 μmol of terminal carboxyl per unit mass (gram) of the polymer.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the molar amount of the terminal carboxyl of the lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer is about 0.1 to about 5 times that of the compound.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 5, wherein the low water-soluble organic solvent is dichloromethane.

25-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the drying of the W/O type emulsion is in-water drying.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 29, wherein an aqueous solution of an osmotic pressure regulating agent is used as an outer aqueous phase on the in-water drying.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the osmotic pressure regulating agent is mannitol.

32-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a sustained-release **microsphere** ~~composition~~, which comprises mixing an aqueous solution containing 1) a compound represented by the general formula:

5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Y-Leu-Arg-Pro-Z (SEQ ID NO: 1)

wherein Y represents DLeu, DAla, DTrp, DSer (tBu), D2Nal or DHis (ImBz1) and Z represents NH-C_2H_5 or Gly-NH_2 and 2) acetic acid in an amount of about 0.1 to about 20% by weight of said aqueous solution with a solution of a lactic acid-glycolic acid polymer in a low

water-soluble organic solvent to obtain a W/O type emulsion, and then drying the emulsion **to obtain microspheres**.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the aqueous solution is obtained using a salt of the compound with acetic acid.

36. (Currently Amended) A sustained-release **microsphere** ~~composition~~ produced by the method according to claim 1.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein Y represents DLeu and Z represents Gly-NH_2.

39. (Previously Presented) the method according to claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the W/O type emulsion is in the range of about 3,000 cp or less at about 12 to 25°C.